

R S Praveen Raj is a scientist and technology transfer expert. He is currently working as Principal Scientist in [CSIR's National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology](#) (NIIST) in [Thiruvananthapuram](#) and is responsible for intellectual property (IP) management, technology transfer and human resource management in the Institute. He started his career as an Electrical & Electronics Engineer and changed to R & D Management Profession later. Prior to joining [Council of Scientific and Industrial Research](#) (CSIR), he worked as [patent examiner](#) in [Indian Patent Office](#) after his short stint in engineering job at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre ([VSSC](#)) in Thiruvananthapuram. Mr. Praveen Raj played a key role in devising IPR Policy of Government of Kerala, which addresses the concerns on [traditional knowledge](#) protection. Further he inspired and guided Dr. Shashi Tharoor MP to introduce a private bill for '[Protection of Traditional Knowledge](#)' (282 of 2016) in Indian Parliament, which was tabled in Lok Sabha on 10.03.2017.

Mr. Praveen Raj holds a Post-graduate degree (M. Tech) in Power Systems Engineering (EEE) from University of Kerala and is an alumnus of College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram. His areas of expertise includes *Patent drafting, Socio-economic Impact study, R&D Planning, Technology Forecasting, IP litigation, Patent mapping, Project Management, Policy research, Strategic alliance, Budgeting and fund management.*

Mr. Raj is a social activist also, who campaigns against alleged misuse of intellectual property laws in religious affairs. In 2009, he filed a case in [Kerala High Court](#) against [Attukal Temple](#) in Thiruvananthapuram for trademarking deity picture and another case in [Supreme Court of India](#) against [Tirupati Temple](#) for securing [geographical indication](#) tag to Tirupati Laddu, temple offering protection. He is also a proponent of [right to information \(RTI\) in India](#)